

Cheryl L. Parrino, LLC
Parrino Strategic Consulting Group

April 16, 2007

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, High Cost
Universal Service Support: WC Docket No. 05-337: In the Matter of Federal-
State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This Notice of *Ex Parte* meeting is provided to the Commission on behalf of Great Plains Communications, Inc. of Blair, Nebraska.

In response to questions raised by Commissioner Tate in the April 2, 2007 meeting with Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate and Nicholas Alexander I provided the information included in this letter and in the attachments.

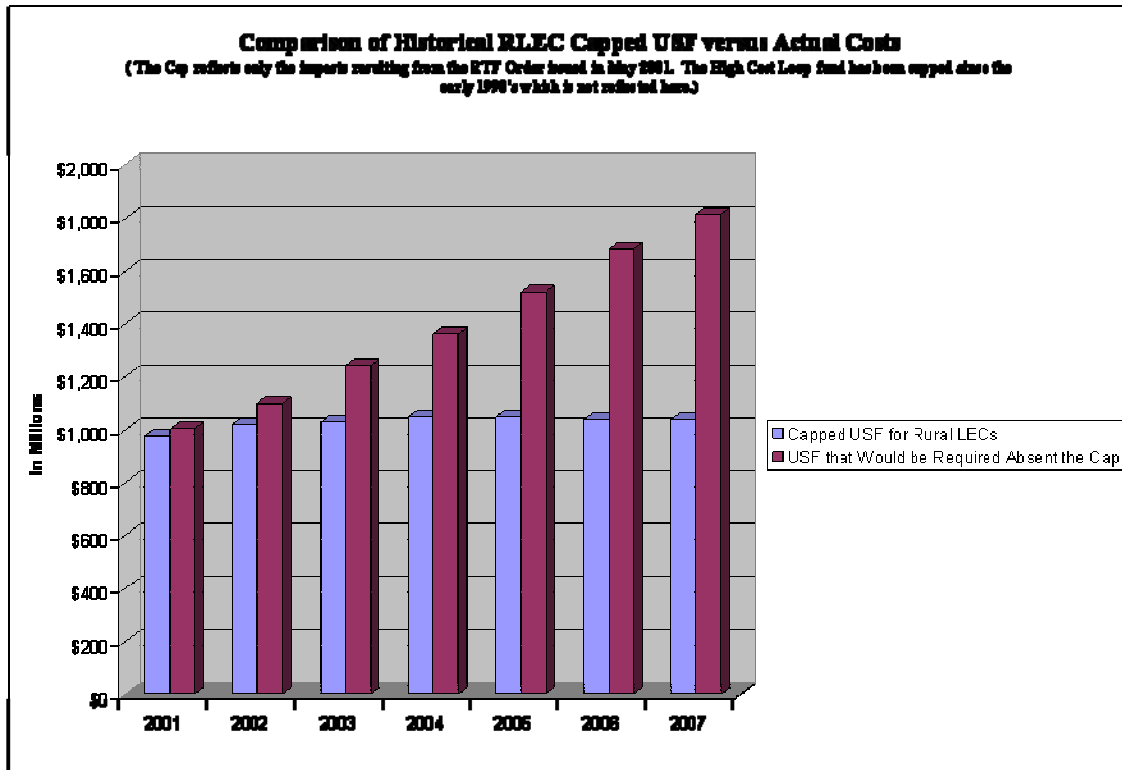
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

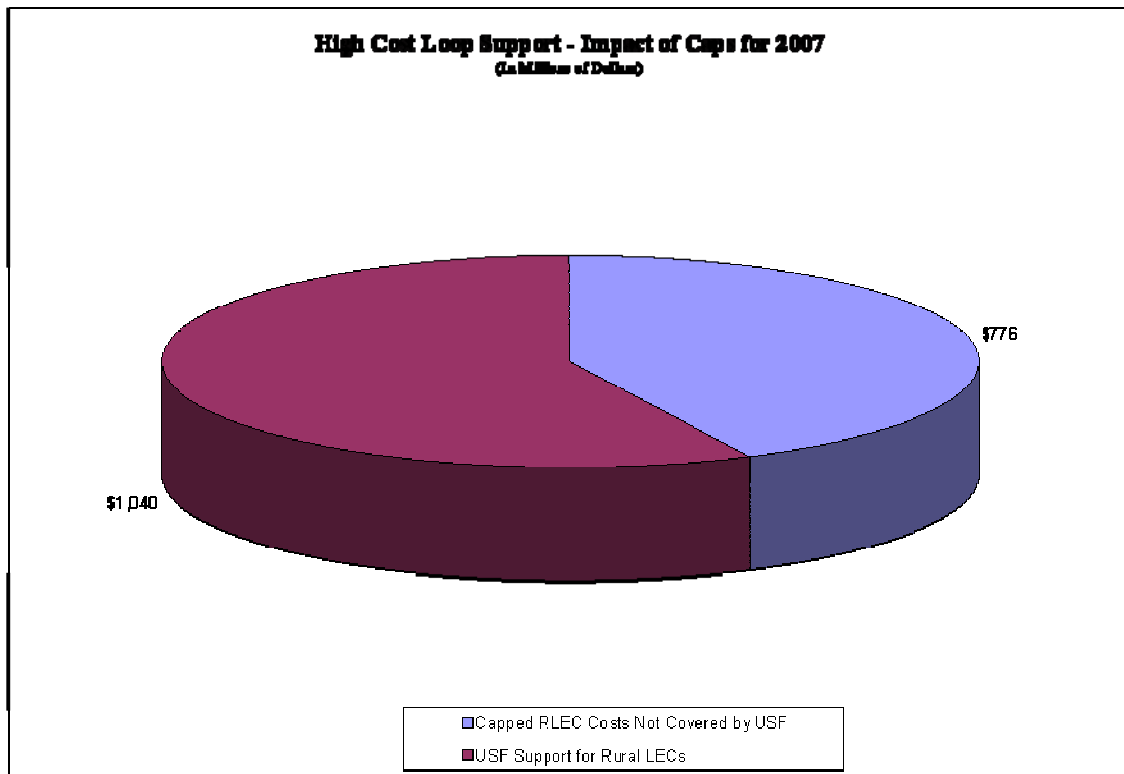
Cheryl L. Parrino

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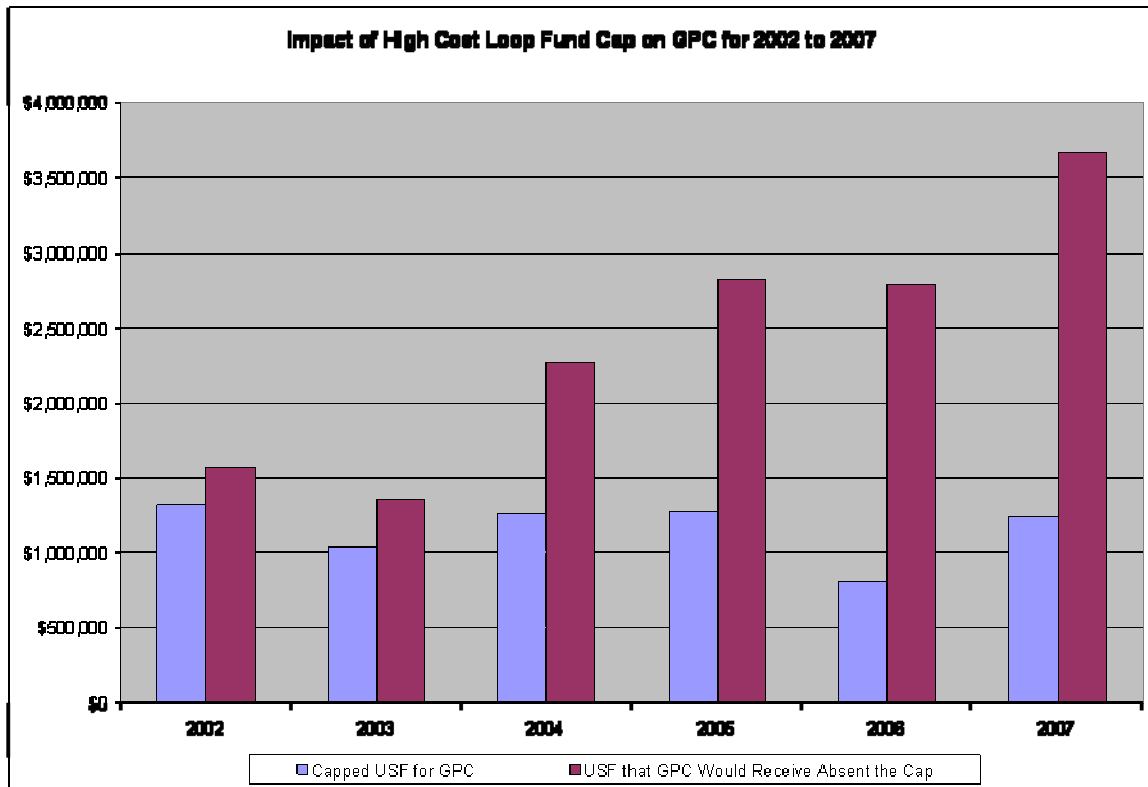
17 Chautauqua Trail, Madison, WI 53719
Voice: 608.829.3479 Fax: 608.829.3479 Mobile: 608.469.1697
cparrino@charter.net



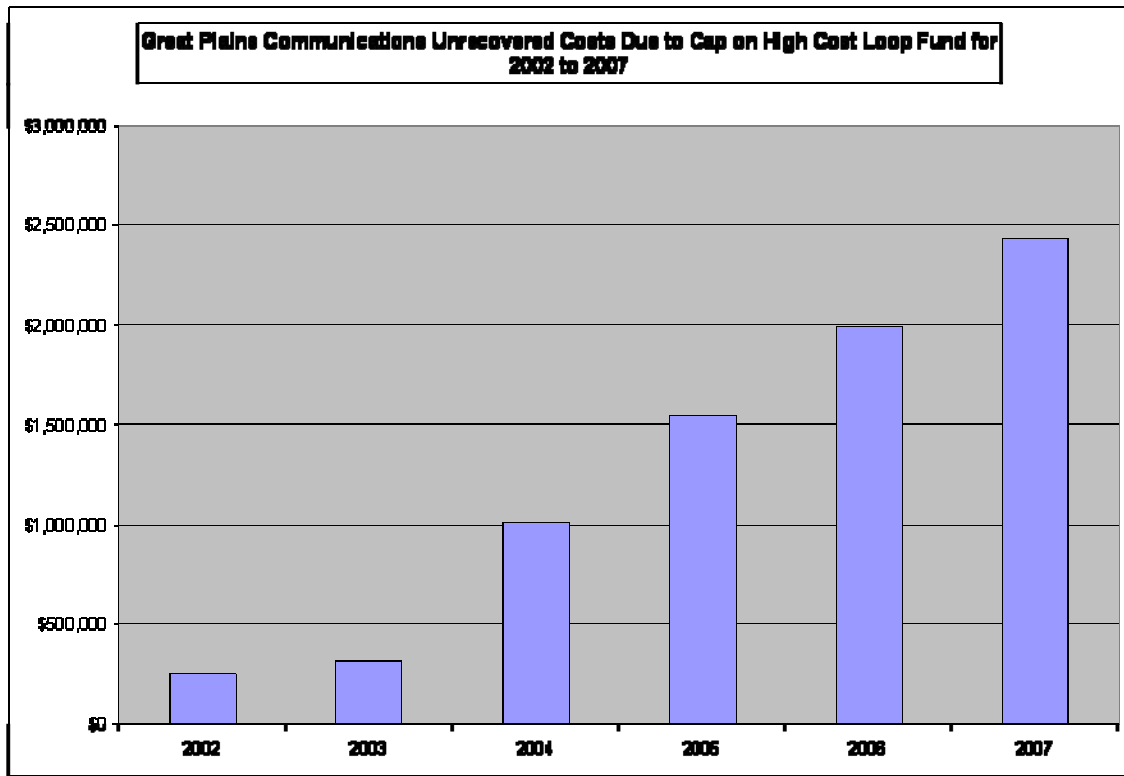
The High Cost Loop fund is capped for Rural LECs. In the RTF order the FCC capped the fund by freezing the national average cost per loop at \$240. As you can see from this bar chart, absent the cap the FCC placed on this fund for RLECs universal service support would have increased each year. The CLEC High Cost Loop support is in addition to RLEC support and is *not* capped.



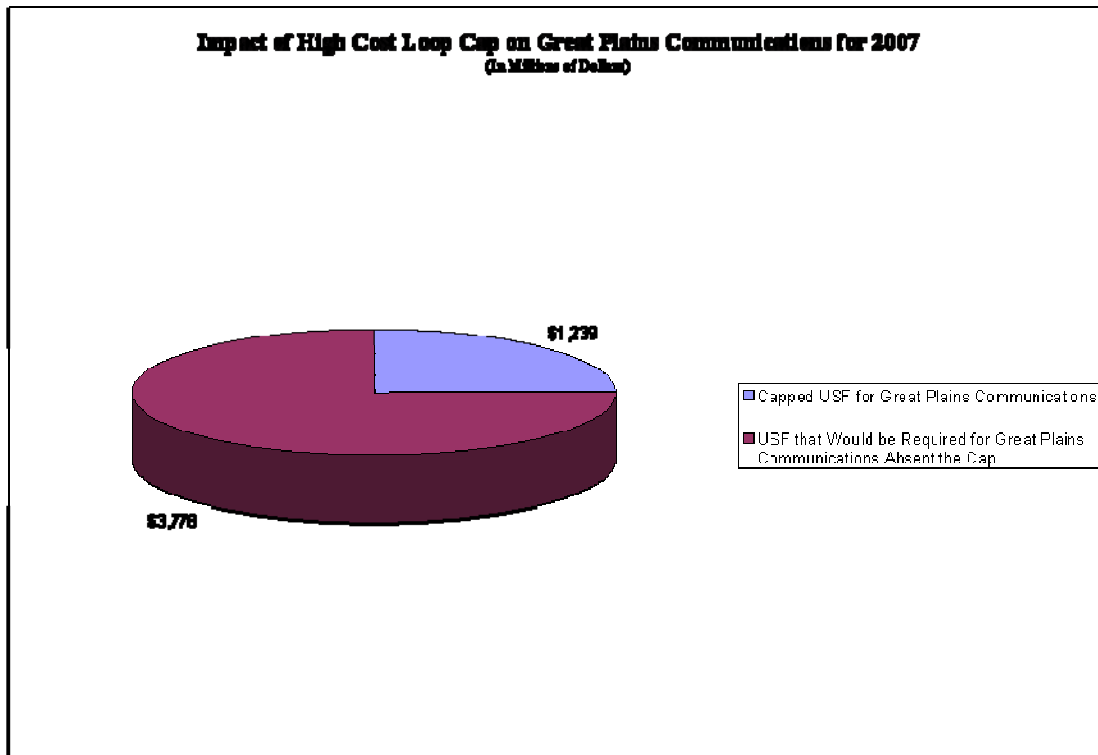
The pie chart gives you a sense of the impact that the cap has on the entire rural industry. The impact for individual companies will vary. On average over 40% of loop costs that would otherwise be covered by USF are no longer covered because of the cap.



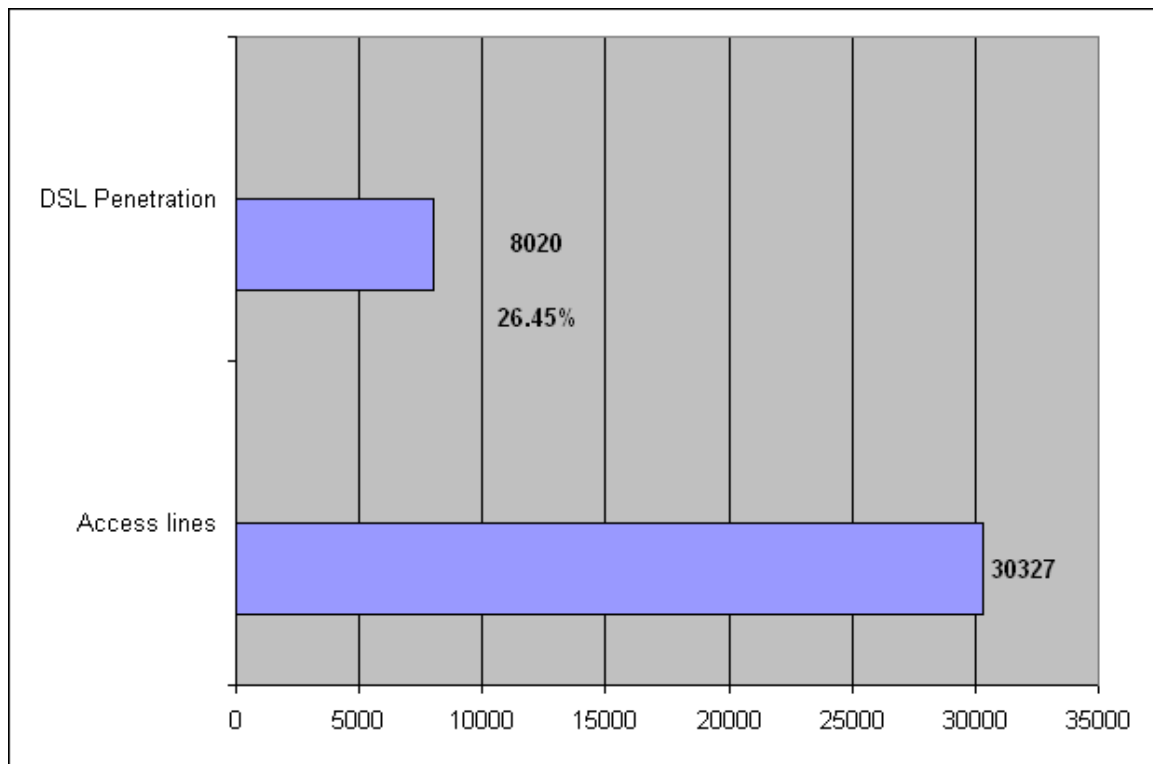
This chart shows the impact that the cap has had over time. The impact varies much more than it did for the industry as a whole.



This chart shows the level of funding that would have come from USF absent the cap that is in place.

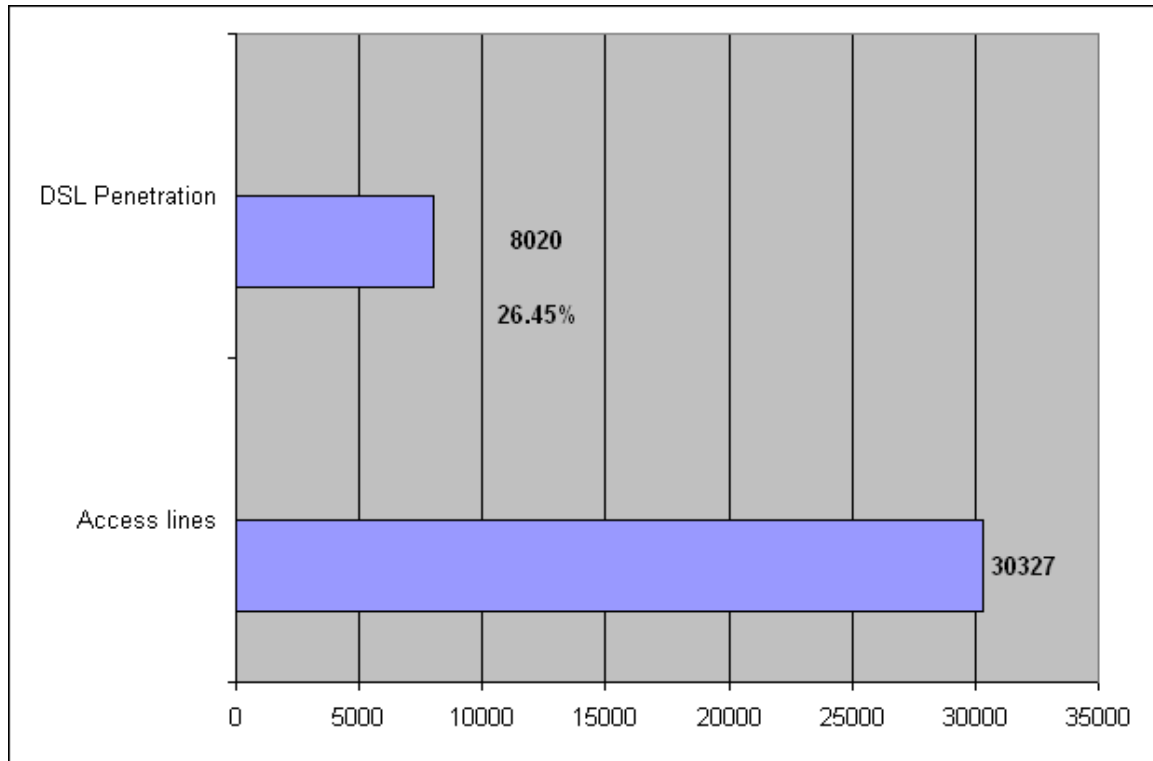


This chart indicates that Great Plains Communications is receiving a little over 30% of what it would receive absent the cap on the High Cost Loop.



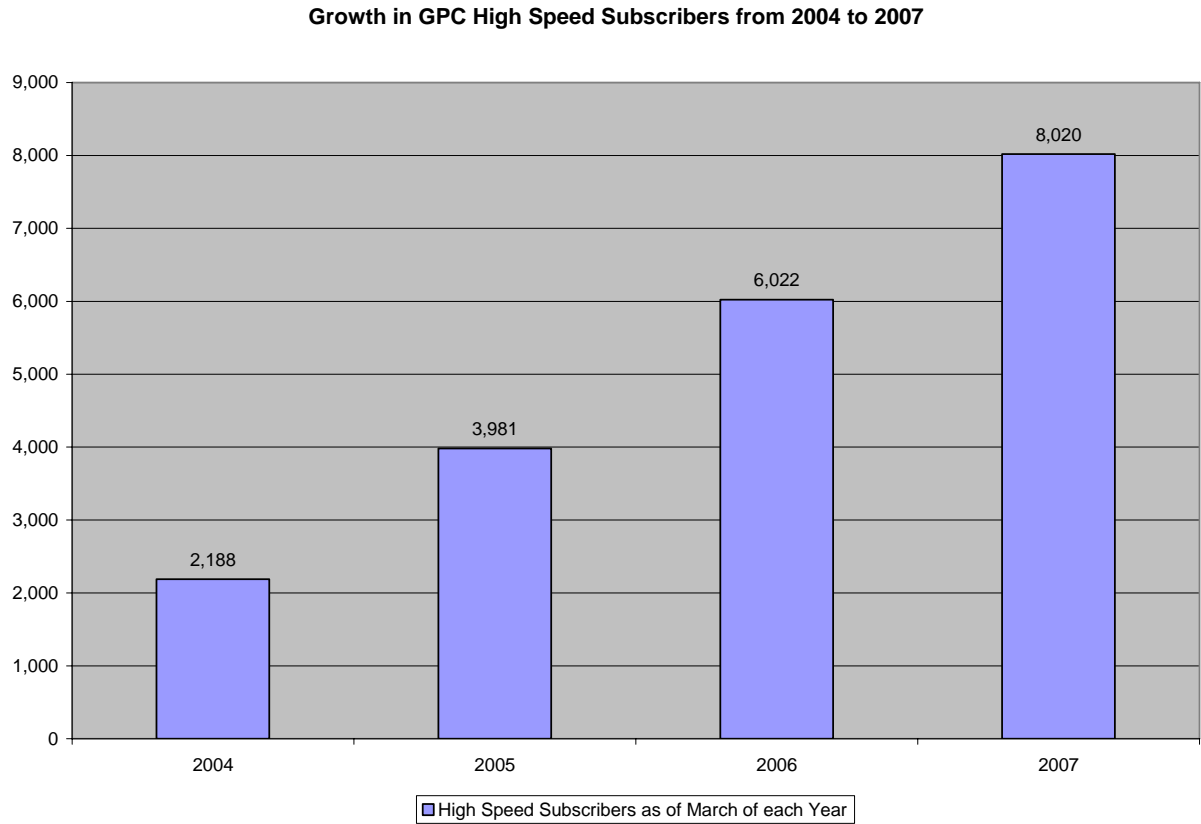
As of March 31, 2007, 100% of Great Plains Communications, Inc. (GPC) consumers have access to Broadband through various technologies. GPC reaches approximately 90% of its customers with DSL with speeds ranging from 1 megabit to 5 megabits. The other 10% of customers have access through satellite technology with speeds ranging from 512 kilobits to 1.5 megabits. GPC has 30,327 customers as shown above, with 8,020 of those customers subscribing to high-speed services for a penetration rate of 26.45%. GPC believes that over time much higher speeds will need to be delivered to *all* customers which will require new facilities to all customer locations. Some customer locations will continue to be quite challenging, especially for those customers that live extremely far from the central office. GPC has some customers in western Nebraska that are over 60 miles from the central office.

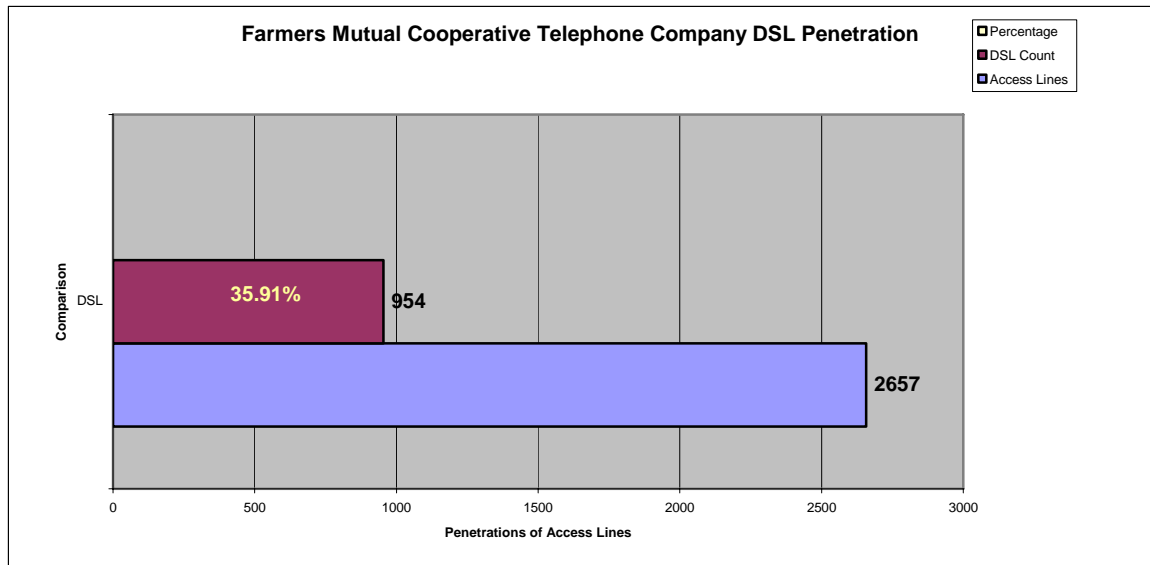
Customer subscription has steadily increased since its availability as shown by the chart below.



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Customer subscription has steadily increased since its availability as shown by the chart below.





As of December 31, 2006, Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company (FMCTC) has DSL available to 100% of its customers at maximum speeds ranging from 512 kb up to 8 megabits. FMCTC utilizes many different technologies to reach its customers including DSL over copper up to 7 miles of non-loaded plant, fiber in the loop, and next generation digital subscriber terminals with fiber and copper. The FMCTC ILEC has 2,567 customers as shown above, with 954 of those customers subscribing to highspeed services for a penetration rate of 35.91%. FMCTC believes that over time much higher speeds will need to be delivered to *all* customers which will require new facilities to all customer locations.